

letter a few paragraphs he had typed at home regarding his conversation with Eckstein and his willingness to give public testimony but not a private interview. Babbitt's text read, in relevant part:

I have never spoken with Harold Ickes or any other member of the White House staff regarding . . . [ellipses in original]

I believe that Mr. Eckstein's recollection that I said something to the effect that Ickes wants a decision is correct. Mr. Eckstein was extremely persistent, and I simply used this phrase as a means of terminating the discussion. It is not the first time, nor will it be the last, that I have dealt with lobbyists by suggesting that the administration expects me to use my good judgment to resolve matters promptly.⁶²⁷

⁶²⁷The text as printed corrects misspellings and typographical errors that appeared in the original. The complete original text as typed by Secretary Babbitt reads as follows:

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I believe that Mr. Eckstein's recollection that I said something to the effect that Ickes wants a decision is correct. Mr. Eckstein was extermely persisstent, and I simply used this phrase as a means of terminating the discussion. It is not the first time, nor will ilt be the last, that I have dealt with lobbyists by suggesting that the administration e xpects me to use my good judgment to resolvbe matters promptly.

Thim matter came to me with a staff recommendation-----

Given that these allegations are now being aired iln public before the committee, I would respectfully request that the committee accord me the courtesy of making any further iquiriers of me in public as well. I acoreingly decline your request for private ilnterivews, but reaffirm my willingness to respond at any convenient time iln public, or to respond to a subpoena if you ilnsist on dealing wilth this behind closed doors.

sincerley